

Amendment
Serial No. 10/500,962
Attorney Docket No. 042493

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for the personal interview which was held on June 29, 2005.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to present the wherein clause in a separate paragraph, and to recite that the elastic closing means authorizes passage of the fuel into the storage means when the pressure reaches a minimum threshold in the accumulator means. Support for the added recitation is found in the original application, for example, on page 7, lines 10-11 of the specification.

Further, new dependent claims 17 and 18 dependent on claim 1 and reciting that the electromagnetic opening means and the elastic closing means are mechanically linked, and that the electromagnetic means and the elastic closing means are on a same conduit between said storage means and said accumulator means, respectively, have been added. Support for the added recitations is found in the original application, for example, on page 5, lines 10 and 19 of the specification.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. The claims are directed to a starting system for internal combustion engine. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by JP 09-184464 ("Kimitaka") which was cited in the International Search Report, claims 2-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kimitaka in view of US 6,273,395 to Palma et al. ("Palma"), claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kimitaka in view of US

6,257,204 to Kamijo et al. (“Kamijo”), and claims 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kimitaka in view of Palma and Kamijo.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Kimitaka discloses an electromagnetic opening means and elastic closing means, Palma discloses a pressure differential valve that would be easily adapted to the system of Kimitaka, and Kimijo discloses an anti-backflow valve between an accumulator and pump.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. The system of Kimitaka has a first pipe 18 for inflow into the pressurized fuel storage enclosure 12, and a second pipe 21 for outflow from the pressurized fuel storage enclosure 12 (see Fig. 2 of Kimitaka). Correspondingly, Kimitaka provides separate inlet and outlet valves, namely, an inlet valve 22 on the inflow pipe 18 and an outlet valve 13 on the outflow pipe 21. As a result, the outlet valve 13 of Kimitaka is designed to trigger outflow from the pressurized fuel storage enclosure 12 but not inflow, which is triggered by the inlet valve 22.

In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, the electromagnetic opening means and elastic closing means controlling selectively the actuator means are such that the elastic means authorizes passage of the fuel into the storage means when the pressure reaches a minimum threshold in the accumulator means, as recited in present claim 1. An advantage of this construction is that the actuator means can be controlled in a simple manner for inflow as well as outflow, and that a separate inflow pipe is not required. This feature of the presently claimed invention and its advantages are not taught in Kimitaka, and the other cited references fail to

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remedy this deficiency of Kimitaka. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over Kimitaka taken alone or in any combination with the other cited references.

In addition, with respect to the dependent claims, it is submitted that the cited references fail to teach or suggest the combinations of features recited in these respective claims. Therefore, for these respective reasons alone, the dependent claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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